

Gonzalez may have lost majority

MURCIA (AP) — The Spanish Socialist Party would lose its one-seat parliamentary majority under a provincial electoral committee's decision Saturday to strike it of a contested seat. The Socialists said they would appeal the decision in court. In any event, it was not expected that the loss of the seat would affect Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez's ability to form a government when parliament convenes Nov. 21. Official provisional results of the Oct. 29 elections had given the Socialists a one-seat majority, with 176 of the 350 seats in the Lower House of Parliament. The next strongest fighter, the Popular Party, holds 166 seats. The regional Basque Nationalist Party, which won five seats, has said it would cooperate with the Socialists whenever necessary. Votes in Spain elect deputies by districts grouped in 51 provinces and electoral districts. The original provisional count in Murcia gave the Socialists five seats, Popular Party three and the Democratic and Social Centre one.

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Cabinet eludes Muawad's effort

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A week after his election as president of Lebanon, Christian moderate René Muawad remains a leader without a government despite intensive efforts to draw his feuding countrymen into a coalition cabinet.

Muawad is struggling to put together a cabinet of national reconciliation in the face of intense Christian opposition led by the man who has dismissed him as a Syrian puppet — Maronite army commander Michel Aoun.

Political sources said Saturday they expected Muawad to delay naming his team for at least one more day.

It's move aimed at consolidating Muawad's grip on power, the Central Bank said it would deal exclusively with the new administration once it was formed.

Until Muawad's election, the bank had been providing both Aoun's administration and a rival civilian cabinet with funds.

In a move to undermine the decision the bank, which is in west Beirut, turned down a request by Aoun's interim military cabinet for a loan to buy fuel oil for power stations.

Central Bank sources said Governor Edmund Naim had decided to freeze all but essential payments until a new government was formed.

Muawad, whose election has been hailed by most of the world but who is reviled in the Christian heartland of east Beirut, has so far failed to induce the second strongest force in the Christian camp to change sides and support him, political sources said.

The 52-year-old Syrian-backed Muawad sought to draw Samir

Geagea, head of the 10,000-member Lebanese Forces (LF) militia, into his cabinet along with Muslim militia chiefs.

Meanwhile, George Saadeh, a leading Christian parliamentarian and head of the right-wing Falange Party, defended Saturday a peace accord worked out with Muslim legislators last month and opposed by Aoun.

His remarks underscored a split in Christian ranks that widened after the formal ratification of the accord and the election of Muawad.

Saudi Arabia's King Fahd said that he was confident Lebanon was moving towards peace after 14 years of civil war.

Saadeh spoke from his home village of Shatiba, on the northern edge of the Christian heartland, in an interview broadcast by his party's radio station, Voice of Lebanon.

Other Christian officials admitted privately that no Christian politician based in east Beirut would join the proposed national reconciliation government Muawad is trying to form until a settlement with Aoun is achieved.

Saadeh said: "What we worked out was a major achievement safeguarding Lebanon's unity." He was responding to Aoun's allegations that the parliamentarians were "traitors" for agreeing to an accord that does not include a fixed timetable for a total Syrian troops withdrawal from Lebanon.

The accord gave the Syrians two years to withdraw from the Beirut area towards the (eastern) Bekaa Valley.

"The accord states that their

mission and stay in the Bekaa is to be defined by an agreement between the Lebanese and Syrian governments," he said.

Aoun had said this was not enough. He wanted a deadline for the evacuation from the Bekaa as well.

Christian parliamentarians, including Saadeh had not returned to their homes in the Christian enclave since the Taif accord, fearing Aoun's wrath. Aoun controls the enclave with some 20,000 soldiers still loyal to him.

However, Shatiba is one of a several hamlets controlled by Falange party militiamen, rather than Aoun's troops. Saadeh moved there this week.

Fahd, who is a member of an Arab committee seeking to settle the Lebanese civil war, told the Saudi newspaper Okaz: "I cannot have any doubt... that Lebanon has found the right path."

He said: "Differences of opinion are natural," a reference to the problem of Aoun. "But I am fully confident that a comprehensive reconciliation and full agreement among all (Lebanese) will lead to the future to which we and the Lebanese look forward."

Morocco's King Hassan and Algerian President Chadli Benjedid are Fahd's partners in the Arab committee.

Fahd renewed in the interview the commitment of the three leaders to support Muawad politically and extend financial support to his government to help reconstruct the devastated country.

He said he believed peace would be restored "within a short period of time, because the Lebanese leaders have proved they are up to the level of responsibility."



NAMIBIANS VOTE: Voters line up in a colored (mixed-race) township outside Windhoek to cast their votes in Namibia's independence elections. Balloting ended Saturday and

final results are not expected before Nov. 13 or 14 (see story on page 8).

6 shot and wounded in W. Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot and wounded at least six Palestinian protesters in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and unknown assailants killed a Palestinian suspected of collaborating with the Israeli occupation authorities.

In the West Bank town of Hebron, about 2,000 school students marched in the streets, clashing with Israeli troops who responded with tear-gas and rubber bullets, witnesses said. An Arab reporter from Hebron said at least 23 students were de-

tained.

In Qalqilya, some 500 protesters unfurled Palestinian flags and marched with flowers in their hands to the house of a youth killed in a clash with soldiers last

week. Arab reporters said troops wounded one protester, arrested 10 and imposed a curfew on the town.

Five other protesters were wounded in clashes elsewhere in the occupied lands, Arab reports said.

In the Gaza Strip town of Rafah, meanwhile, masked men armed with daggers and axes killed Samir Mohammad Asana, 37, in front of his shoe shop in Rafah's marketplace, journalists and Israel radio said.

At least 2,000 students marched through the centre of Hebron chanting nationalist slogans after examinations marking the end of the school year.

Leaflets signed by the uprising underground leadership were distributed overnight calling for

order during the examinations themselves but mass protest around the Nov. 15 anniversary of last year's declaration of Palestinian independence.

In a gruesome sidelight on the uprising, a Gaza Strip family who went to court to recover the body of a son shot dead by the army five months ago has refused to accept the corpse delivered because its head and limbs were missing.

Israeli lawyer Felicia Langer, representing the family of Mohammad Abu Nasr, said Saturday military officials told her the head was removed for identification by dental records but not explain why both arms and a leg were missing.

Langer said she felt the army's action was one of incompetence

rather than deliberate concealment. "Its terrible unfeeling negligence, a crime," she told Reuters.

An Israeli military court has indicted 200 Palestinian activists on multiple charges of murder, kidnapping and other crimes, Israel Radio said.

It was the second time since the outbreak of the uprising that Israel has brought such a high number of indictments simultaneously against uprising activists.

Among those indicted was Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, 52, the founder of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas).

Yassin and hundreds of his supporters were arrested by Israeli forces May 22, during massive raids by Israeli troops in the

King, Cabinet review elections

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday chaired a cabinet session and expressed satisfaction with last week's parliamentary elections as well as the awareness that the people demonstrated in the process.

The King also gave directives to the Cabinet on issues of concern to the public and the country.

The Cabinet discussions dealt with various aspects of the current phase. King Hussein earlier conferred for a time with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.

Dodgers amnesty

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree has been issued endorsing a Cabinet decision to reduce by half prison sentences passed on 471 recruits who had dodged military service. The amnesty comes on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday anniversary.

Papandreou bids for conservatives' help

ATHENS (AP) — Former Premier Andreas Papandreou met with his conservative arch-rival Saturday as part of an effort to form a coalition government to pull Greece out of a deepening political deadlock affecting its economic future.

Although the 40-minute meeting with Constantine Mitsotakis failed to form a coalition, both leaders agreed that a government should emerge from the ongoing consultations and that the "pilotless economy deeply mired in indecision... needed urgent and immediate attention."

It was the second meeting within three days between the 70-year-old Papandreou who heads the Panhellenic socialist Movement (PASOK) and Mitsotakis who leads the New Democracy Party, to discuss a way out of the political and economic crisis brought on by the Nov. 5 inconclusive general elections.

At separate press conferences, both leaders expressed the need to avoid immediate elections but Mitsotakis called for an all-party administration with a short life.

Papandreou said an all-party government consisting of political personalities should be of long duration.

Papandreou holds a personal grudge against Mitsotakis for splitting with Papandreou's father George, a former premier, 25 years ago. It was evident from statements by both leaders prior to their meeting Saturday that they would be unable to find common ground for future cooperation.

They are very disciplined, very polite," said Goeryens. "Not like the ones over here. But who knows? If they get used to it, they'll probably end up being as rude as the West Berliners."

East German leaders Saturday

Christos Sartzetakis told reporters that he will consult with Florakis Sunday and propose that the "progressive, democratic" forces form a government. But he sounded pessimistic that an agreement could be reached on a coalition administration which would have the necessary majority.

The constitution stipulates that if Papandreou unable to form a government by Monday, Florakis then receives a presidential mandate.

If Florakis fails to find a solution, Sartzetakis, as a last resort, calls on the political leaders to set aside their differences and form an all-party government. If this bears no fruit, Greeks will be called to the polls again before

the election.

It was the second meeting when New Democracy won 148 parliamentary seats, three short of an absolute majority, in last Sunday's election. The PASOK won 128 seats, the coalition, 21, and independents took three places.

It was the second election within five months after the June 18 poll also ended with no one party winning enough seats to govern alone.

As political leaders continued to maneuver, the economy and the state machinery reeled under the uncertainty facing the nation and no government available to draft a budget for 1990.

With a short cash supply confronting the public sector, Central Bank Governor Dimitris Chalikias Thursday ordered commercial banks to stop loans to the private sector until January.

Greek businessmen said Chalikias' decision was uncalled for and demanded it be rescinded. Leading commercial groups led by the powerful Greek industrialists union called a joint meeting of its executive committee for Monday to discuss the repercussions on the private sector.

PLO, EC agree Cairo talks should lead to peace conference

Our Central Council has accepted the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue according to our conditions."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's government is insisting that the PLO should have no role in the talks.

In Cairo, Egyptian presidential press secretary Mohammad Abdul Mumeen later told Reuters that reports that a team of non-PLO delegates was being considered for the proposed dialogue were incorrect.

"Consultations between Cairo and the PLO are still continuing to reach a suitable formula to start the dialogue."

Political sources had said that Egypt and the United States were considering the formation of a Palestinian team of non-PLO members for direct talks with Israel.

The sources, quoted by Reuters, said the PLO was likely to accept the idea as an initial stage for talks with Israel to break the deadlock in Middle East peace.

The ministers' one-day visit to Tunis is part of a weekend fact-finding trip which also includes Egypt. It coincides with U.S. and Egyptian attempts to make a Cairo meeting possible by narrowing the gap between the PLO and Israel.

They did not give names.

"The PLO would closely follow the Cairo meeting and see what it leads to as a test of Israeli intentions," one source said.

PLO Executive Committee member Jamal Al Sourani said after talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid Friday that the PLO did not object to talks between Palestinians and Israelis as long as they led to an international peace conference.

Arafat, asked if the Cairo meeting could take place before the end of the year, said: "It depends on Mr. No. — Shamir."

Foreign Ministry sources said

Abdul Meguid relayed the questions to Baker on Friday night during a telephone call.

Israel has conditionally accepted the Baker plan but wants the right of veto over the composition of any Palestinian delegation it would be expected to negotiate with.

Arafat was to accompany the EC troika to a meeting Saturday evening with Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Khuri.

They were to discuss a proposed meeting to be held in Paris Dec. 21 between representatives of the European Community (EC) and members of the Arab League.

Britain, which does not have diplomatic relations with Syria or Libya, two members of the Arab League, was to be represented at the December gathering with a lower level official, Duman told reporters.

The proposed two-day meeting will be the first between the two European and Arab organizations.

The three European ministers were to leave Tunis Sunday morning for Cairo where they were scheduled to meet with President Hosni Mubarak.

France is the current chairman of the EC, Spain was the previous chairman and Ireland will take over the presidency from Jan. 1.

The visit, decided a month ago, will now clearly be dominated by diplomatic moves to bridge the gap between Israel and the PLO on what form the proposed Cairo meeting should take.

The ministers will see Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in Paris at a date yet to be fixed, diplomats said.

European diplomats said the ministers thought the prospects for convening an Israeli-Palestinian meeting in Cairo were good and would encourage the PLO to keep working on the details.

East German refugees at a school in Marktredwitz, West Germany

One seventh E. Germans given visa to visit West

BERLIN (AP) — East Germans flooded West for visits Saturday, as demonstrators chipped holes in the Berlin Wall and West German Interior Ministry said early Saturday that 140,000 East Germans had arrived overnight. West German border police said East German cars were backed up for 40 kilometers at the crossing near Helmstedt, West Germany.

Most of the East Germans said they were planning to return after making long-awaited visits to the West, the police said.

ADN said Kohl and East German Communist Party chief Egon Krenz spoke by telephone Saturday about economic relations between the two countries and other matters. Kohl said he renewed his offer of heavy financial support if East Germany makes necessary reforms, including free elections.

Kohl announced he would be meeting with Krenz to discuss the historic developments in the Communist country. No exact date was set, but Kohl said it would be soon.

Kohl also said he was in "constant contact" with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, and that he has spoken with U.S. President George Bush as well.

Hundreds of thousands of East Germans crossed into the West at other points along the border in one of the largest single-day movements of people in post-war European history. Thousands more waited in line Saturday on the East German side of the

border for their chance to visit their capitalist neighbour.

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Ethiopia mobilises civilians to fight rebels

ADDIS ABABA (AP) — The government has announced a nationwide mobilisation of civilians to fight the northern rebels steadily moving toward the capital, the Ethiopian News Agency (ENA) reported Saturday.

The state-owned news agency said the congress of a newly formed National Revolutionary Campaign Centre met for the first time Friday in Addis Ababa and approved unspecified methods of mobilisation.

According to ENA, hundreds of thousands of civilians will be armed to join the regular army in the war against the rebel Tigre Peoples' Liberation Front (TPLF). The report did not specify when the mobilisation would begin.

President Mengistu Haile Mariam told the congress that the immediate aim of the mobilisation drive was to drive the TPLF from Wollo and north western Gondar provinces before moving into Tigre, which the rebels have controlled since February.

Mengistu said groups of armed civilians, called militias, would be formed in all parts of the country. However, the militias forming the vanguard would come from north western Gondar and Gojam and

eastern Assab and Eritrea provinces. These provinces surround Tigre.

The militias from the central Shewa and Addis Ababa, Eastern Harrar and Dire Dawa, and Western Wellega regions would be deployed when needed.

The TPLF took up arms in 1974 to press for increased autonomy for Tigre province, but now is demanding Mengistu's ouster.

Although TPLF began preliminary peace talks with the government in Rome last week, the rebel group has shown no signs of slowing down the current offensive.

When the talks began Nov. 30, the rebels claimed in a clandestine radio broadcast that they had captured another town and killed 100 soldiers in two days of fighting 160 kilometres north of Addis Ababa.

Since late August, the TPLF fighters have scored a series of victories, pushing government troops south along Ethiopia's

main north-south highway out of their home province of Tigre and into southern parts of Wollo province, Tigre's neighbour.

Mengistu said the mobilisation did not mean the government was abandoning negotiations with the Tigrean and the Eritrean Peoples' Liberation Front, a secessionist group in Ethiopia's northernmost

Tigre province.

"The visit is part of our efforts to seek support in solving the conflict," Elsadig Ahmad Osman, Sudan's charge d'affaires in Dars Es Salaam told Reuters.

The Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), led by former Colonel John Garang, has been fighting since 1983 to end what it

considers to be domination of the largely Christian south of Sudan by the Muslim north.

The government delegation, headed by Brigadier Osman Ahmad Hassan, chairman of the political committee of the ruling National Salvation Revolutionary Command Council, arrived Friday and expects to meet President Ali Hassan Mwinyi.

The second round of these talks in Nairobi, Kenya, has been postponed for two days until Nov. 20, and there has been no recent report of fighting in Eritrea.

The Eritreans have been fighting since 1962 and the Ethiopian government has accused them of

collaborating with the TPLF in order to hasten Eritrea's secession.

Hostage discussions 'heating up'

BEIRUT (AP) — A weekly magazine has reported that behind-the-scenes discussions about the release of the 18 Western hostages were heating up.

Ash Shiria, in an unsourced report, said this week's release of Iranian assets by the United States at the same time Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati was in Algiers indicated the issue was once again on the front burner.

"It is known that the issue of foreign hostages in Lebanon has been put on the front burner and developments could come up concerning the release of some of the hostages very soon," the magazine said in a two-paragraph story.

It has made similar predictions regularly since November 1987, when it broke the story of the United States trading arms with Iran in exchange for hostage release.

None of its recent hostage reports have been accurate.

Algeria was the main mediator in the negotiations that lead to the release of 52 Americans for claims by American banks against Iran. Iran's claims against American banks were similarly paid.

The broadcast quoted Jahrooni as saying.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency had said the purpose of Velayati's 3-day trip this week to Algeria was to discuss bilateral relations.

Meanwhile, the legal advisor to Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani said Friday that Washington's decision to release \$567 million in frozen Iranian assets will not affect the fate of the \$567 million to be paid to Iran.

The remaining \$243 million were put into an account in an Algiers bank for other settlements, the radio quoted Jahrooni as saying.

The payment was solely in line with the Algiers agreements, according to which \$1.4 billion were placed in an account for claims by American banks against Iran. Iran's claims against American banks were similarly paid.

The broadcast quoted Jahrooni as saying.

The U.S.-Iranian Claims Commission was set up in 1981 after talks in Algiers to settle claims between Iranian and American banks.

He said that a little more than \$10 million were leftover in the account, and that after talks between the American and Iranian sides at the International Court at the Hague, it was agreed that \$567 million would be paid to Iran.

The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Eftekhar Jahrooni as rejecting any link between the hostages and the released assets.

In Paris, the 12-nation European Community (EC) Friday appealed for an end to fighting in Sudan and called for peace talks.

It said relief supplies should be distributed in the beleaguered southern part of the country where the SPLA is fighting government troops.

The military junta last week stopped all flights to the famine-prone area, including those carrying supplies.

After several months of effective ceasefire, the 12 deplore the resumption of fighting in the south and the resulting suffering and loss of human life," said a statement issued in Paris. France is current president of EC institutions.

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Jordan seeks help to extend high-land project

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is seeking help from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to extend a high-land development project for another five years, starting 1990 to help promote farming in rain-fed regions, according to the secretary-general of the Ministry of Agriculture, Dr. Sami Sunnaa.

The project, which has been in progress in Jordan for the past 10 years, entails providing food supplies by the United Nations Food Programme (UNFP) to small farmers in the Kingdom to encourage them to carry out soil preservation schemes and to plant their land with fruit trees, according to Sunnaa who left for Rome Saturday heading a delegation to the FAO's 25th annual meeting.

According to U.N. officials here, the highland development project in Jordan gives high priority to provide assistance to control and reverse erosion. Food as an incentive, contributes to propelling the development process and stimulates community participation and self-reliance, they noted.

The project aims principally at reclaiming waste land in hilly areas which have been severely affected by soil erosion to grow olive and other fruit or forest trees.

The additional five-year programme, Sunnaa said, is expected to cost the World Food Programme (WFP), an arm of FAO, an additional \$26 million.

The FAO's 20-day meeting, Sunnaa said, will discuss a host of topics dealing with agriculture and food problems around the world and an analytical study of trends in world food production.

He said that the meeting would

also discuss a FAO's world-wide programme and its annual budgets for 1990 and 1991.

In addition, the meeting will discuss the prospect of returning the Near East regional office to the Middle East area from Rome where it is now based.

The Jordanian delegation will also request that FAO finance three agricultural projects and provide technical assistance to Jordan in the coming years, Sunnaa said.

FAO fights malnutrition and hunger, and serves as a coordinating agency for development programmes in the whole range of food and agriculture, including forestry and fisheries. The organisation also helps developing countries, including the Arab World, to promote educational and training facilities and institution-building.



A bedouin votes Wednesday but tribal leaders no longer sure for which candidate

ACC aviation officials meet to finalise cooperation accord

SANA (Agencies) — Civil aviation officials and senior airline executives from Jordan and the other three members of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) gathered here Saturday for a two-day meeting to finalise an agreement on cooperation in air transport and civil aviation affairs.

Civil aviation officials here said that the draft agreement entails unifying air zones of Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and North Yemen. The agreement means that the four countries' airspace will be

come a "unified regional airspace". Regulations pertaining to air travel and ground services as well as aircraft maintenance will be streamlined, according to officials.

The countries' carriers are believed to have a collective fleet of more than 70 aircraft, most of them Boeing or Airbus jets.

Last March, the ACC countries agreed to a meeting in Cairo to open their airspace and to consider air travel between them as domestic flights.

The Cairo meeting also discussed

Dramatic shifts shake tribalism

By Marium M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The cracks that appeared in the domination of tribalism in Jordanian society — political, economic or social — during the run-up to this week's elections have emerged more defined in the final ballot count.

Tribalism and tribal affiliations have undergone dramatic changes since the last general elections in the Kingdom, and a glance at the results chart this week quickly indicates that traditional tribal leaders, or "sheikhs," suffered unprecedented setbacks in their bids to retain their seats in the Lower House of Parliament, whether dealt by Islamists, ideologues, independents or the younger "enlightened generation" of the tribes.

At a press conference Friday, His Majesty King Hussein agreed that tribalists outside of the bedouin districts had suffered setbacks. "The members of tribes have lost contact with one another as a result of an opening of society and increased educational opportunities," the King said. He said the generation gap between tribe members might also have prompted the apparent decline of tribal alliances at the election polls. He also stressed that the results of the elections should indicate to tribalists and others what would or would not be in their best interests.

The election results indicated that tribal votes had been split equally among candidates of the same clan. Except for the few who either belonged to the Muslim Brotherhood or had strong ideological links, very few won seats in Parliament.

Divide and Defeat

"In Karak, the smaller clans had an unofficial policy which was not to vote for the big tribes," said a close observer of the Karak election scene. "They were tired of domination by the big clans which had been playing the major role as far back as they could remember," the analyst said. "So they elected any candidate except big clan members and thus people who are relatively unknown from the 'ashir al qaqiqi,' or the poorer tribes, won the votes," he added.

In the only exception to clan disunity, members of one clan, the Obeidat of the Ramtha and Bent Kanana districts, held preliminary elections amongst each other and chose one candidate to represent them. Their candidate won one of the three parliamentary seats allocated to their district. The Obeidat estimated that they had 8,000 voting members, but their candidate Quseim Obeidat won 9,203 votes.

On the other hand, the Bataineh of the Ramtha and Bent Kanana districts, held preliminary elections amongst each other and chose one candidate to represent them. Their candidate won one of the three parliamentary seats allocated to their district. The Bataineh estimated that they had 8,000 voting members, but their candidate Quseim Obeidat won 9,203 votes.

The proposals, bound to spark heated debate, were hazy on how far-reaching economic change and democracy would be.

Even the Berliner Zeitung, newspaper of the Communist Party in the capital, commented cautiously that the planned reforms could create real democracy only "if they can be put into practice."

Noting the proposal had to be debated before going before an emergency party conference set for Dec. 15-17, the paper said: "It won't quieten down between now and the conference."

A Western diplomat said the programme would not satisfy the people. "It's got too many of the old rubber band clauses that can be stretched any way the party wants," the diplomat said.

schools of thought, often won enough votes to enter Parliament. This was the case with Kamel Al Omari from Irbid Governorate and Abdul Latif Ar'fat from Balqa Governorate, both of whom were on the Muslim Brotherhood ticket. There were also several others. On the other hand, Mohammad Faris Tarawneh and Issa Madanat, both members of major Muslim and Christian clans respectively in Karak governorate, are believed to have won their seats in Parliament because of their Arab-nationalist alliances and not primarily because of tribal affiliations.

Independents

Some tribal candidates who were running on independent tickets, however, were elected despite the fact that several members of their clan also ran in the same district. In the Fourth District of Amman, an election associate of deputy-elect Nayef Minwer Al Hadid said that among the Hadid clan of "several thousands" there had been a general consensus over the leading candidate prior to the polls and other clan members candidates were "renegades with no backing or consequence."

The governorate of Ma'an appeared to be an exception to the general trend. Tribal alliances for the most part seemed to prevail over the Islamic trend, which swept through other districts with major victories. Although Yousef Al Athem an Islamist — led the race, the other four successful candidates had represented clans and ran as independents. They included former ministers Saleh Al Sharar, as well as Ziad Shweikh and Abdul Karim Al Kabarit.

Election results indicate that voters in Ma'an seem to have been the most "uninfluenced by the Islamic trend in Jordan," according to one foreign observer. "It is strange that Ma'an chose its representatives on the most traditional — tribal lines — when compared to other districts," the observer said.

Six months ago, sudden price rises, which were implemented in accordance with an agreement with the International Monetary Fund, were the cause of major unrest and demonstrations in the traditional southern city. Many Jordanian and foreign observers contend that the calls raised in Ma'an for more political freedom and a fight against corruption in the government were instrumental in bringing about quicker parliamentary elections.

Bedouin Districts

In the three bedouin districts, traditional leaders who had no ideological or Islamic links prevailed despite the presence of candidates of the latter in the race.

Although not all may agree, one independent observer remarked: "From what I understood from the King's speech, political parties should be formed sometime in the near future. This is likely to further diminish the muscle of the tribalists and it may weaken the Islamist trend as well."

Another surprise in the election results in the bedouin districts was the failure of former minister and speaker of the Lower House Akef El Fayez to win a seat for the central bedouin district.

Members of major tribes who were associated with politically oriented or organised

Seminar urges global effort to fight drugs

AMMAN (J.T.) — A five-day regional conference on treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts opened in Amman Saturday with calls for mobilisation of international efforts to combat drug addiction, which tends to impede economic and social development.

The danger is not confined to one nation or one region of the world, but transmits borders and affects people's lives around the globe," Minister of Health and Social Development Zubair Malhas said in an address at the opening session.

Malhas, who deputised for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan at the meeting, said that drugs worth some \$600 billion were being used annually in different countries, including the United States which is estimated to consume some \$300 billion worth of drugs alone.

He said the speedy measures should be introduced to deal with the situation and to curb the danger, "which has serious consequences on health, social, economic and even military and political life."

"Drug addiction is a major issue that obstructs socio-economic development and causes severe harm to societies, leading to criminal activities, corruption, debts, deprivation of rights and gloomy prospects for generations to come," Barakat said.

Barakat outlined part of the ILO's work in helping drug addicts overcome their predicament and also acquire vocational training to qualify them to assume a productive life.

He called for urgent cooperation on the part of various countries in providing vocational training for the rehabilitated addicts and to help provide the means to stem the practice of drug abuse within an integrated strategy.

"This conference seeks to find means of helping addicts readjust to normal life by providing treatment and assistance at specialised centres," the minister said.

The meeting was addressed by Ghabriel Barakat, assistant to the director general of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) which is co-sponsored by the regional conference with the Ministry of Health and the United Nations Fund for Dealing with Drug Abuse.

"In view of the drug danger, which threatens all nations around the world," Barakat said, "government should pool their resources and join forces not only in combatting drug trafficking but also in helping addicts to return to normal life."

"Drug addiction is a major issue that obstructs socio-economic development and causes severe harm to societies, leading to criminal activities, corruption, debts, deprivation of rights and gloomy prospects for generations to come," Barakat said.

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He called for urgent cooperation on the part of various countries in providing vocational training for the rehabilitated addicts and to help provide the means to stem the practice of drug abuse within an integrated strategy.

Barakat also outlined other forms of activities conducted by

the ILO to help combat drug addiction.

Brigadier Ghabriel Zou'bi, director of the Narcotics section at the Public Security Department (PSD), said in a speech that his department, which was established in Jordan in the early 1970s, had succeeded in combatting drug trafficking in the Kingdom.

Jordan is still, to a large extent, considered one of the least drug consuming countries in the world though it has quite a number of drug addicts who are being rehabilitated at a specialised centre.

Zou'bi said Jordan, or any other country, can never be safe from drug addiction or trafficking unless regional and international efforts are pooled to tend off the danger.

Zou'bi, reviewed the King's measures, including legislation to deal with the drug situation and the implementation of pan-Arab and international resolutions in this respect. Heavy penalties are being imposed on drug traffickers and users in the country.

Participants attending the conference represent Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, North and South Yemen, Oman and Jordan as well as the ILO.

Topics on the agenda cover common forms of drug abuse, ways of protecting societies from addiction and measures that can be taken to combat drugs.

Cabbie shot dead

AMMAN (J.T.) — A taxi driver was shot and killed in western Amman Saturday and a 28-year-old man from Jabal Hussein was arrested as the prime suspect in the killing, according to a statement issued by the Public Security Department (PSD).

A statement issued by the PSD said the suspect, identified only as HRH, was arrested immediately after the killing on Mecca Street. According to the statement, the suspect was riding a taxi, and when the vehicle was proceeding along Mecca Street, he pulled out a gun and opened fire on the driver, who died instantly. The driver was a Marka resident.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted PSD sources as saying that the suspect had confessed to the killing, which, he said, followed a dispute.

Doors worth JD 1.6m sold to Iraq this year

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO) exported doors worth JD 1.6 million to Iraq up to late September under an agreement signed with the Iraqi government last year, according to JWICO Chairman and Director-General Najib Qu'bain.

JWICO's production until the end of 1989 is expected to stand at JD 4 million. The sales in local markets stood at JD 1.8 million until late September 1989, an increase of 40 per cent over last year. Sales by the end of 1990 are expected to top JD 2.2 million.

Following the stabilisation of the dinar's rate of exchange and the tangible drop of prices of raw materials in Jordanian dinar, JWICO decided to drop the prices of its products by 15-22 per cent effective Sept. 16, 1989 for local consumption.



A CN-235 plane displays its wings

Indonesian plane visits Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — In exploring the possibility of further expanding its production market, the Indonesian Aircraft Industry (PTN) has sent the CN-235 aircraft mission headed by Mr. Paramadjudha to many countries in the Middle East, including Jordan, in order to perform demonstration flights.

The CN-235 is the first Indonesian-Spanish jointly designed aircraft, specifically for regional transport and could also be converted to both a

military and a maritime patrol aircraft. It was rolled out from its production line in 1983. More than 130 orders have been received for this aircraft from various countries all over the world.

While visiting Jordan Nov. 7-12, the CN-235 aircraft performed a demonstration flight at Amman airport Nov. 11, 1989, during which His Royal Highness Prince Faisal, along with Jordanian Civil Aviation and military officials took part in the flight.

Thalia Myers — from classical Viennese to new British music

By John Foreman
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Thalia Myers, as a guest of the New English School, paid a return visit to Jordan last weekend and gave a recital Thursday evening, at the Royal Cultural Centre. Her programme was varied, ranging from music of the classical Viennese school to works by modern British composers.

The programme began with a selection from Edwin Roxburgh's six etudes. Myers opened with a performance of Nov. 5, a powerful rhapsodic movement with an accompaniment of orchestral density. This was followed by number 3, a slow movement in the form of an arch, leading to a densely articulated climax. Number 6 provided a spectacular finale — highly complex and dramatic, essentially contrapuntal in nature. The etudes were played

with commitment and energy, thus ensuring a totally convincing performance.

The next work was Haydn's Andante con variazione in F minor, which was a refreshing reminder of the extent of subtlety and invention of a composer whose reputation in recent years has been somewhat eclipsed by that of Mozart. Myers' performance of this work combined lightness of touch with clarity of texture.

In complete contrast, there followed a soulful rendition of Rachmaninoff's Elegie, opus 3 Number 1. Though clearly less nationalistic than the previous generation of Russian composers, Rachmaninoff's handling of melodic line reveals the folk tradition from which composers such as himself derive both the form and the mood of the music. The Prelude in G minor by the same composer offered a more austere contrast.

The final work was the Variations and Fugue on a theme of Handel by Brahms, the last in the line of Viennese masters, who effectively combined romantic period colour with the form of the Baroque and classical periods. This is a work of some length and there are frequent changes of mood and pace. Myers handled the heavy demands of this work with obvious enthusiasm and drive, exploiting the rich textures of Brahms writing to the full.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

★ An art exhibition by Jordanian artist Mohammad Al Qaddoumi displaying oil and watercolor paintings depicting nature in Jordan, at the Housing Bank Gallery.

★ An calligraphy exhibition at Jordan National Gallery.

★ An art exhibition by Jordanian Artists Jamal Ashour, Hazem Al-Zabidi, Ghada Dahdaleh and Mohammad Al Jakous at Petra Rock Art Gallery.

★ A book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.

LECTURE

★ A lecture on "Locality and Universality in the Writings of Najib Mahfouz" by Dr. Nabil Al Sharif at the British Council — 6:00 p.m.

FILM

★ A feature film entitled "Rain Man" at the American Centre — 7:30 p.m.

Jordan Times

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Another milestone in Jordan history

IN a remarkably relaxed manner, His Majesty King Hussein laid to rest, during a press conference Friday, the fears and anxieties of those shortsighted commentators from within and outside the Kingdom that the results of the 1989 parliamentary elections spell gloom for Jordan. First and foremost, King Hussein assured the local and foreign press that he and his government and people are totally satisfied with the outcome of the elections. That was in answer to some observers who were betting on the proposition that Jordan is all hot and bothered by the many revelations that the Wednesday elections brought forth. On the contrary, King Hussein assured Jordanians and others Friday that the results were very good and beneficial as they portray Jordanians' new state of mind. As for the magnificent show of strength by the "Islamic movement" in these elections, His Majesty reminded all concerned that Jordan is composed of Muslims and Christians ever since time immemorial and that it would be wrong and imprecise to maintain that the 30 odd parliamentary seats that will be occupied by members of the "Islamic movement" suggest a return to Islam. How can a Muslim return to Islam? King Hussein remarked. Muslims can only go forward with their faith and not backward. His Majesty went on to recall that the Kingdom has always been a haven for the Muslim Brotherhood movement at times when it suffered from persecution in other countries. Accordingly, it would be totally untrue to allege that the Muslim Brotherhood presence in the Lower House of the Parliament can ever be construed as a sign of growing opposition. In fact, King Hussein pointed out, participation in the decision-making process at the level of the Lower House of Parliament need not and must not be interpreted as "opposition" in the strictest sense of the word. And as an added guarantee that Jordan has no cause to fear the results of the elections and that there is no going back from the revitalised parliamentary life, His Majesty assured his people that the projected National Pact will envisage the establishment of political parties where all diverse political views and thoughts would have opportunities for expression.

All in all, the wind of change ushered by the results of the 1989 elections are lasting and welcomed by all. Parliamentary system in the Kingdom, therefore, can go only one way and that is forward. His Majesty has blessed the latest national elections and has stood by their fruits. Thus, 1989 will go down in Jordan history as yet another milestone on the continuing road towards greater participation of the people of Jordan in the decision-making process.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

ALL local dailies on Saturday discussed in their editorials and opinion columns the results of the parliamentary elections in Jordan and King Hussein's statements at a press conference to discuss these results and future prospects. Al Ra'i daily said that the King has presented a clear picture of the future plans of the government, and noted that the results of the elections reflect the country's determination to move ahead in a united body towards creating a better future. The King has made it clear that like the elections, which were held in a free atmosphere, this country will continue to enjoy democracy and freedom, and the deputies will shoulder their new responsibilities in a manner that can enhance this democracy, the paper noted. But the King has pointed out that the deputies' task is to share in shouldering the burden of government, and not to serve as an opposition bloc barring progress, the paper added. There is no doubt, said the paper, that the new deputies will be confronting heavy responsibilities and the burden of economic and social issues that await solution, said the paper. The situation requires a great deal of patience, dedication, far-sightedness and serious efforts if solutions are to be found, and the parliament ought to contribute the major share in this process, added the paper.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday calls for the creation of political groupings in Jordan so that no favour could be given to one group like the Muslim Brotherhood at the expense of others. Fadi Kisan says that no candidate in a parliamentary election can ever dream of succeeding and reaching parliament unless he is backed by an organised group or a political faction or tribe. Therefore, he says, Jordan ought to have a wide sector of political spectrum which can help the executive authority carry out its duties. The writer congratulates the winners and says that now that the parliament contains a large sector of Islamists and it remains to be seen whether they can join in the effort of helping the government find solutions for the country's numerous problems as they had promised in their campaigns. The writer also notes that the people of Jordan who elected the deputies will be awaiting their honouring of commitments and pledges and solutions for all problems. What the deputies ought to do now, is not to serve as a factor of division or to act as an opposition group to the government, but rather as a participant in the efforts that serve the nation's goals.

Al Dustour daily said in its editorial that the parliamentary election in Jordan reflected the people's desire to participate in the government's efforts in discharging the affairs of the Kingdom. King Hussein's statements at the press conference have also added their dimension to this fact and strengthened the people's confidence in their country and its future. The people of Jordan have thus expressed their stand by electing those who they think can best represent them in government, and to help the executive authority carry out its duties, the paper said. The King said that the awareness and the feeling of national belonging on the part of the citizens of Jordan will be enhanced by new efforts and further endeavours so that the meaning of democracy can be bolstered at all levels, the paper noted. It also said that the coming stage requires self-confidence and serious endeavours by the deputies in parliament in cooperation with the government to serve the higher national interests.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Economic aspects of elections

By Dr. Fahed Faneh

LIKE every major development in the country, elections may have favourable and unfavourable economic consequences. On the negative side we can point out the new additional element of uncertainty brought about by the strong showing of the Islamic fundamentalists, against the moderate gains of the leftists. The business community is set to wait and see what new trends will bring about, and especially the composition and nature of the coming government that would secure a comfortable vote of confidence.

On the other hand there are some worries that the newly elected members of parliament may call for more public expenditure, more subsidies, and other populist demands which, if accommodated by the government would represent a set-back to the current economic correction measures and the re-structuring and adjustment process of the economy.

On the positive side, the base of decision-making will be much broader, and the difficult decisions, which have to be taken, will be more acceptable by the people, including additional burdens or sacrifices. From now on, it is not the prime minister

and, to a lesser degree the ministers, that will be responsible. We shall have more shoulders, and hopefully more minds and ideas.

Looking at the outcome of last week's elections we can identify contradicting signals about the mood of the people. In one hand the fundamentalists representing the Islamic right exceeded the wildest expectations and lined up some 28 deputies. On the other hand the Left performed very well, and was able to put around 10 members in the forum. At the same time most of the symbols of the establishment, especially those who resigned their senior jobs to run for election, scored good successes and, together with the moderates, liberals, and traditionalists can forge a reasonable majority to safeguard the continuity, stability of the economic and political system, while trying hard to make the necessary reforms from within.

The elections were a success in one way and a failure in another. It was definitely a success as a democratic step in the right direction, and in the free and neutral conduct which may embarrass some regimes all through the Third World. But, in another way, it was an unfair competition as far as equal institutional opportunities were concerned.

The Islamic Brotherhood was the only legal organisation for three decades in the absence of all other parties. At one time it had full domination over the Ministry of Education, the university of Jordan, and the network of mosques across the country. The others were either individuals with limited resources and means, or small illegal parties which were given very short period of time to present their views in the open. The vast majority of the Jordanian people were neutralised. It was no surprise that one in five citizens eligible for elections did not register, and one in each seven registered voters did not bother to collect their voting cards, and two of each five holding cards did not vote. Citizens were under the wrong impression that they do not count. They left a well-organised minority and its allies to dominate the elections by efficiently mobilising less than 10.2 per cent of those eligible for voting.

It is my opinion that the elections held last week were an achievement we should be proud of, and extract the lessons from, but it was by no means a real mandate for the fundamentalists to run the country.

Don't judge us by different standards, Sandinistas tell U.S.

By Bernd Debusmann
Reuter

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — "We are the little men," says Tomas Borge, "and the big men sit in Washington. And they apply one set of standards to us and one to the rest of the world."

Borge, Nicaragua's powerful interior minister, blames double standards for an image of his country that has little to do with reality. Double standards, he says, are used to deepen hostility towards Nicaragua.

In an interview with Reuters, Borge touched on a problem that has poisoned relations with the United States ever since Ronald Reagan became U.S. president in 1981 and declared Nicaragua a "communist dungeon" and a beach-head for Soviet expansion in Central America.

Diplomats here agree that Nicaragua has been under closer

U.S. scrutiny than any other Latin American country. Its leaders have provoked more ire from Washington than anyone else with the possible exception of Libya's Muammar Qadhafi and the late Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran.

At a pan American summit in Costa Rica this month, President George Bush likened Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega to a skunk and referred to him as "that little man." For Reagan, Ortega was "that little dictator in olive green."

Personal insults apart, Sandinista leaders cite dozens of examples of being measured by a U.S. yardstick that is not applied to other countries.

For example, the U.S. described presidential elections here in 1984 as a "Soviet-style sham." Independent observers said that while the political space of the Nicaraguan opposition was limited, there was no evidence of

fraud.

In Panama in 1984 a vote considered rigged by virtually all electoral observers was hailed a victory for democracy by Washington and then-Secretary of State George Shultz attended the inauguration of the new president, Nicolas Barletta.

Nicaragua came under renewed criticism this month for ending a unilateral ceasefire in its war against U.S.-backed contra insurgents. The decision followed a series of rebel attacks that killed more than 40 people in ten days.

The Bush administration instantly suggested the Sandinistas were re-igniting the war — at an uneasy standstill since a Central American peace accord — to have a pretext to cancel elections next year which they feared losing.

"What were we supposed to do?" said Borge. "What alternative did we have? Sit back and

allow the contras to act with impunity? What they did just went too far."

Peace talks aimed at ending the eight-year-old civil war were expected to go ahead at the United Nations on Thursday and Friday.

Borge, 59, is the only surviving founder member of the Sandinista National Liberation Front that spearheaded the broad-based revolution that toppled U.S.-backed dictator Anastasio Somoza in 1979.

U.S. officials rate Borge, who spent years in Somoza's jails and was brutally tortured, as one of the most hawkish of the nine men who make up the Sandinistas' ruling national directorate.

Sting in his book-lined study, Borge complained that the reasons for Sandinista actions tended to be ignored in the United States.

"No matter what we say... they never listen but always find some-thing to criticise us for," he said of Washington.

When we used tear gas for the first and only time in Nicaragua, there was sharp criticism... though such things happen all over the place."

Anticipating U.S. attempts to challenge the validity of elections set for February 25, the Sandinistas have invited observers from the United Nations, the Organisation of American States and a team led by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

It will be the first time that the U.N. sends observers to elections in a sovereign country and Borge acknowledged that their proposed presence was considered humiliating by some Sandinista militants.

"But if we did not do this, the U.S. would accuse us of fraud," he said. "If we did not do this, the word fraud would not be enough... they would have to invent a new word."

New freedoms in E. Europe could unleash ethnic rows

By Patrick Worsnip
Reuter

LONDON — The crumbling of Communist authority in East Germany has raised the prospect of German reunification, but as new freedoms awaken old ethnic rivalries the Eastern Bloc could split.

These problems have been kept in the frige for 40 years," says Jonathan Eyal of Britain's Royal United Services Institute. "But they are coming up now."

Eastern Europe is a hotch-potch of dozens of different nationalities. Even in countries whose borders were defined, often arbitrarily, after the first and second world wars.

But their problems, which used to exercise statesmen of the great powers in the 19th and early 20th centuries, were swept under the carpet when Stalin imposed Communist rule on the area in the late 1940s.

Marxist-Leninist ideology taught that ethnic conflicts were a feature of capitalism and imperialism, and would wither away once the working class took power and all races lived together as brothers and sisters.

Now, as the lid is being lifted on the Communist world, national groups are starting to use their new-found freedom to voice old grudges. Some Western and Eastern experts fear an ethnic free-for-all that could destabilise Europe.

The problems have so far been most apparent in the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, two countries that are amalgams of many different national groups.

The Soviet Union contains 15 republics and more than 100 nationalities. The traditionally dominant Russians now account for only just over half the population and are steadily declining as a proportion.

According to Gail Lapidus of the University of California, Soviet state founder Vladimir Lenin created a system that gave the symbols of nationhood to a number of national groups while at the same time imposing centralised party rule from Moscow.

A visit to Poland by West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl this week — intended to seal a post-war reconciliation — had to be preceded by delicate negotiations over the rights of this minority and over Kohl's itinerary in Silesia.

Further to the south, Bulgaria faced a crisis this summer over ethnic Turks who make up about one-tenth of its population.

More than 300,000 fled to Turkey to escape what they called a forced assimilation campaign in Bulgaria, threatening serious damage to the Bulgarian economy.

In Yugoslavia, Communist but not a member of the Warsaw

republics that President Josip Broz Tito held together after World War II has started to come unstuck since his death in 1980. Clashes between Albanians and minority Serbs in the province of Kosovo have resulted in dozens of deaths, the prosperous republic of Slovenia has asserted increasing independence, and some analysts foresee Lebanon-style conflict in the country.

But other Western experts say these remain problems within one country, and predict that a still more serious situation could arise where ethnic groups spill over national borders, as is the case with Hungarians.

About one-fifth of Hungarian speakers live as minorities in the countries that surround Hungary — Romania, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union.

As Hungary scraps Communism in favour of Western-style democracy, it is likely to become more of a magnet for Hungarians outside, particularly the two million living under hard-line Communist rule in Romania.

Already Hungary, newly

accountable to popular feeling at home, has accepted some 20,000 Romanian citizens as political refugees.

But, analysts say, the issue could unite Romania and Czechoslovakia, both deeply disturbed by the changes under way in Budapest, to make common cause against Hungary.

The Eastern Bloc's other leading reformer, Poland, also faces ethnic problems to both east and west, stemming from the general westward shift of frontiers after World War II.

The Polish public is increasingly interested in the lot of some 1.2 million Poles now living in the Soviet Union.

The new, non-Communist government in Warsaw has been in dispute with West Germany over an ethnic German minority which Bonn says still exists in Poland, especially the former German region of Silesia.

A fundamental tension was thus built into the Soviet system from its very origins," she writes in the latest issue of the U.S. journal Foreign Affairs.

Since Mikhail Gorbachev began to liberalise the system in 1985, the Baltic Republics have agitated for autonomy, territorial clashes between Armenians and Azerbaijanis have resulted in at least 120 dead, and discontent has bubbled up in many other areas.

More than 300,000 fled to Turkey to escape what they called a forced assimilation campaign in Bulgaria, threatening serious damage to the Bulgarian economy.

In Hungary, it was the Communist Party itself that took the initiative as it voted to dissolve

Politics and dust: Prime minister versus Mahatma's grandson

By Earleen Fisher
The Associated Press

AMETHI, India — Rajiv Gandhi, the prime minister, lands outside a big town, the clutter and windstream of his helicopter's rotor blades churning up reminders of the power and money he has pumped into his electoral district.

Rajiv Mohan Gandhi, grandson of India's beloved independence leader Mohandas K. Gandhi, bumps down disintegrating dirt lanes in a venerable white sedan, telling villagers barely touched by the 20th century why they should vote for him instead of Rajiv.

It's an uphill battle for the 54-year-old writer and political novice, who is not related to the prime minister.

Most of the people in the Amethi parliamentary district are poor, many are illiterate, but they know the power of the office of prime minister. And even if Rajiv Mohan Gandhi defeats Rajiv Gandhi in this month's election, Rajiv Mohan will be just another member of parliament and not the prime minister.

Still, there are rumblings of discontent. Despite an impressive construction boom in towns in Amethi and Gauriganj since the last elections in 1984 there are villages a few miles away where people wonder why they, too, do not yet have electricity.

Across the road from a modern steel plant, farmers ask why labourers were imported from other states to do jobs they say had been promised to their sons. In the larger towns, unem-

ployed young men with high school educations and engineering degrees talk about corruption and the Bofors arms scandal that has dogged the administration of Rajiv Gandhi, the grandson of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and son of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

In Jais and Gauriganj, towns of several thousand people on a narrow but well-maintained blacktop road, it's hard to believe anyone except Rajiv Gandhi is really running for the seat he has held since 1981. Posters with his portrait are plastered on shops and hang from lightposts.

In

In

In a 10-hour drive through the Amethi constituency barely two weeks before the election that starts Nov. 22 and ends Nov. 26, not a single portrait of Rajiv Gandhi was spotted. The solid green banners of the Janata Dal party he represents were seldom seen outside Amethi town.

Rajiv Mohan Gandhi has an answer for this.

In Misrauli, about 12 kilometres north of Amethi, he tells villagers: "Each Rajiv Gandhi poster costs

Cambodia: The obstacles to peace

By Christophe Peschoux

Following is the first of a two-part series on Cambodia, the actors in the drama, and the fledgling Hun Sen government's efforts to rebuild a country. Christophe Peschoux, a 31-year-old French writer, just returned from a visit to Cambodia where he travelled as a member of a private international commission investigating the political and social situation. Starting as a volunteer worker in refugee camps in Thailand 10 years ago, Peschoux has followed closely developments in Indochina.

PHNOM PENH — Despite its failure the international conference on Cambodia held in Paris this summer served one purpose: to highlight the major obstacles to peace. It now appears that there can be no peace without China, and none that would involve the China-backed Khmer Rouge whose authoritarian regime murdered about a quarter of the Cambodian population when it held power from 1975 to 1978.

Though it operated with great discretion at the conference, China was calling the shots, using intermediaries its protégés — former ruler Prince Sihanouk, and the Khmer Rouge who emerged as surprisingly dynamic at the conference table. "They ran their business extremely efficiently," one delegate commented, "they had diplomats all over the place, contacted everyone, tried to charm and most of all, to torpedo any kind of peace plan that kept them out."

The Khmer Rouge line in Paris was to stand by the five-point peace plan put forward by Prince Sihanouk and approved by China and the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries. The plan provides for the establishment of a quadripartite national union government in Phnom Penh that would include the three factions of the Cambodian resistance (a coalition officially recognised by the United Nations as representing Cambodia) and the current government installed by the Vietnamese 10 years ago.

China's power in the region lies, not only on its size and history,

but also in the fact that several million Chinese live in the neighbouring countries where they often wield a great deal of financial power. Although Western foreign ministers had all declared "that they were freezing high-level contacts with China (after the Tiansamen Square events this spring), they were the ones who asked to see me," the Chinese foreign minister proudly observed in Paris during the conference.

To ensure Chinese support, the future regime in Cambodia will have to provide Beijing with serious guarantees against any spread of Vietnamese influence beyond its borders. Owing to its

relationship with the Soviet Union, Vietnam is perceived as a security threat by the Chinese, who rely on the Khmer Rouge to block the way. Meanwhile on the Western front, ambiguity prevails: at the conference U.S. Secretary of State James Baker stated that "the Khmer Rouge should play no role in Cambodia's future. The United States will support Prince Sihanouk if he deems it necessary to accept the inclusion of all the Cambodian factions in an interim coalition... The strength of U.S. support for any Cambodian government, however, will be inversely proportionate to the extent of the Khmer Rouge participation, if any... There must be safeguards that Pol Pot or any other Khmer Rouge leader responsible for mass murder will never be able to rule again."

Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen was unequivocal: "Some people think that we want to exclude only the Khmer Rouge army and that we would accept a Khmer Rouge party; they are mistaken! We want them totally and finally excluded, politically and militarily, otherwise there can be no agreement."

The Killing Fields

The British moviemaker Ro-

land Joffe who presented his film "The Killing Fields" for the first time in Phnom Penh in August commented: "Making space for the Khmer Rouge is like trying to have a relationship with a cobra."

"It will take 50 years, or two generations to rebuild Cambodia," predicts Patrick de Veille at the Bangkok bureau of the United Nations organisation helping refugees. "The refugee population (about 250,000) in the camps on the Thai border is so vulnerable and so little educated that it cannot participate in the reconstruction."

On the international scene, while China is playing for time, Vietnam can hardly afford this luxury; it is running out of steam. For the past two years it has been struggling with much-needed economic reforms and has tried to break the quarantine it was forced into in 1975 when a hard-line communist regime took over — a situation aggravated when Vietnam invaded Cambodia four years later.

One of Vietnam's main concern is to rebuild bridges with Washington, another is to ease tension with China. At least three Chinese-Vietnamese meetings have been convened over the past few months, and Hanoi has asked France to continue its diplomatic

effort and hold another international peace conference. There is also a possibility that a conference will be held in Bangkok before the end of the year.

With the official pull-out of the last Vietnamese troops from Cambodia in September, the resistance has intensified fighting against the Phnom Penh army of 35,000. Superior in training and weaponry to the other resistance forces, the estimated 30,000 Khmer Rouge troops spearheaded the action, especially in the Plain region — an area rich in precious stones (mostly rubies and sapphires) which could provide a vital source of cash to the guerrillas.

Resistance

The resistance operates from the refugee camps on the Thai border, but Thailand is now seeking to improve its relations with neighbours in Indochina, hoping to "turn the battlefield into a market," says the Thai prime minister. Under pressure from all sides, Thailand is striving to maintain a delicate balance between reducing the military threat along its borders, and normalising relations with its Vietnamese-influenced neighbours without provoking hostility from China. Traditionally pro-Western, Thailand is now seeking increased support from Western Europe.

In response to the Cambodian resistance's call to arms after the Paris conference, Prime Minister Hun Sen urged: "Cambodia needs peace, we must achieve reconciliation."

Easier said than done, especially since there was no U.N.-sponsored monitoring of the Vietnamese withdrawal. Independent observers from several nations, including India, accompanied by some 300 journalists, witnessed what was presented as the withdrawal of the last Vietnamese contingent on Cambodian soil this September, but China promptly accused the Vietnamese of stationing another 30,000 men in Cambodia, this justifying continued Chinese aid to the Khmer Rouge, mostly in the form of weapons.

A detail from the temple of Angkor Wat in northwestern Cambodia. Now lost in the jungle, the temple was built in the 11th century in what was then one of the most magnificent cities in all Asia.

The leaders in Phnom Penh are bracing themselves for a drawn-out fight. To their regular troops whose best units are strategically posted near the western border, they added 100,000 militia men as back-up, at the same time adopting a policy of democratisation aimed at gaining the government broad popular support. Also, experts estimate that the Soviet Union has doubled military aid to Cambodia over the 1983 level.

In all probability a lot more Cambodian blood will be shed before a solution is found. A power of the Khmer Rouge rests on strict military discipline, authoritarian control of the individual, and the use of fear, punishment and food rationing. Though human rights violations may not be on the massive scale of the past, torture, summary executions, detention, drafting of men and male-teens, indoctrination and forced starvation are widely used tools of power. Escapes add that if the 70,000 refugees in the Khmer Rouge camps had a choice, they would flee to other camps — *World News Link*.

Threatened by war, thief and vandals, the Cambodians' struggle to survive the hardships of the past two decades.

Refugees and migrants just keep on leaving the GDR

By Kurt Pleyer

ONE inhabitant in four has left East Germany since 1949. **BONN** (DAD) — The photos of GDR refugees heading for the West that have gone round the world since August call to mind the migration of the peoples in immediate post-war Europe. Tens of thousands of East Germans have left their homes, friends and jobs in recent weeks to start from scratch in the Federal Republic of Germany. This influx of refugees is not just a matter of individual lives by the thousand; it is also an accusation levelled at a political system that for decades has ruled out any sensible dialogue with its citizens and is only now, or so it seems, prepared to consider a few reforms.

Since it was founded 40 years ago roughly four million people have left the second German state, successor to the Soviet zone of occupation. Since June 17 1953 and the first full-scale uprising by people in the GDR three million have headed west for the Federal

Republic of Germany. In other words, nearly one East German in five has left the GDR since that dramatic summer 36 years ago. Not even the building of the Berlin Wall on 13 August 1961 succeeded in calling this exodus to a halt. Between Aug. 14 and December 31 1961 over 50,000 people managed to escape to the West, and even in the years that followed, refugees continued to escape, their numbers ranging from 42,000 in 1963 to just 11,000 in 1983. They risked life and limb by scaling the Wall and barbed-wire emplacements and by crawling along tunnels they dug beneath the Iron Curtain to freedom. Their escape routes ranged from the fuel tanks of commercial vehicles to home-made hot-air balloons, from the River Elbe to the Baltic, crossed in tiny boats or rubber dinghies.

Throughout this period there was an official migrant for every other refugee who escaped from the GDR by risking life and limb and by using the most adventurous means. Migrants in this context are Germans officially permitted by the East German authorities to move to the Federal Republic of Germany or Berlin (West), usually to join close relatives and members of their family. People of pensionable age have always been allowed to leave the GDR for good.

The past few weeks have shown how keen the desire for freedom still is in the GDR, especially among young and active people. Since Hungary opened its border with Austria in August, over 50,000 GDR citizens have headed west, aided and encouraged by the understanding shown and the humanitarian attitude adopted by the Hungarian and Polish authorities.

Many first sought refuge in the Federal Republic of Germany's embassies in Budapest, Warsaw and Prague. They are far from the end of the matter.

— German features.



Africa's AIDS 'out of control'

ISSUES of vital importance to Africa's future dominated two recent but markedly different international conferences.

Few will now be unaware that Southern Africa, and especially the elimination of apartheid, loomed large at the 49-nation Commonwealth summit, held in the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur.

Far less attention appears to have been accorded by the international community to a gathering of experts concerned with a tragedy that is steadily engulfing the whole of Africa.

Several hundred AIDS experts attended a three-day meeting in Marseilles with the realisation that this 20th century plague is now running out of control in Africa. It is generally agreed that for the world's poorest continent it poses a far greater threat than even its recurring famines.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), which is leading the global battle against the incurable disease, AIDS is present in 48 African countries. Up to three million men, women and children are estimated to be infected with the human immunodeficiency virus.

This could represent as much as a half the world total. But as the WHO admits, no one can really gauge the true extent of the epidemic, especially as several years can elapse between infection and the onset of full-blown AIDS.

In some areas of Uganda and

between 16 and 49, the most productive part of our population.

From Kenya in the east to the Cote d'Ivoire in the west, and from Algeria in the north to Zimbabwe in the south, the picture is increasingly bleak.

In some areas of Uganda and neighbouring Zaire, it is believed that as many as one adult in four is infected, while one baby in five is born with the virus. Elsewhere in Central Africa, such as Rwanda, about one in three of the population in some districts is thought to be HIV-positive.

As was pointed out at the Marseilles conference, there are some puzzling aspects to the epidemic. For instance, why has the virus taken such hold in the Cote d'Ivoire, but not in Ghana or Nigeria?

Another feature of the mosaic is that in some countries most of those infected are men while in others they are predominantly women. Speakers wondered whether such unanswered questions could be crucial to a greater understanding of the AIDS problem.

— *Lions features*.

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Mubarak highlights danger of import-export shortfall

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak warned Saturday that a \$4.5 billion gap between Egypt's foreign exchange earnings and spending on imports threatens the national economy and must be narrowed.

In a speech opening a new session of the People's Assembly, or parliament, Mubarak said the gap persists despite a 68 per cent increase in export income in the 1988-89 fiscal year that ended last June 30.

Egypt's foreign exchange revenues for the year totalled \$6.1 billion while imports cost \$10.6 billion. Imports of wheat, flour and other consumer commodities account for \$3.3 billion of the total, he said.

The earnings include income from crude oil, cotton and other exports, Suez Canal transit tolls and tourism. The country's largest source of foreign currency, remittances from Egyptian workers abroad, is not considered income because it is merely exchanged for its equivalent in Egyptian currency.

Mubarak noted that exports in 1988-89 fetched \$2.7 billion compared to \$1.6 billion in 1986-87 but said this is not enough.

"Narrowing the gap that continues to exist between imports and exports is primarily a national issue," Mubarak told the 458-

seat house where his National Democratic Party holds an overwhelming majority.

"Continuation of this gap would have dire consequences, touching the country and all citizens, because it would cause a serious imbalance in the structure of the economy with direct reflections on all aspects of our life," he declared.

He ruled out bridging the gap with foreign loans, saying this would serve only to double our foreign debt in a few years."

Egypt's external debt totals about \$44 billion, roughly one-fourth owed to the United States. Under pressure from the U.S.-dominated International Monetary Fund (IMF), Cairo began economic changes in 1987 that included increasing exports, re-



Hosni Mubarak

ducing imports and fusing several foreign exchange rates into a single, more realistic one.

The reforms enabled Egypt, with IMF help, to reschedule debts of about \$8 billion. Talks are under way with the fund on further changes to permit rescheduling of another \$5 billion in loans.

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exports, Suez Canal transit tolls and tourism. The country's largest source of foreign currency, remittances from Egyptian workers abroad, is not considered income because it is merely exchanged for its equivalent in Egyptian currency.

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dollar since Monday.

When trading was suspended it stood at over 845 austral per dollar, against 730 at the start of the week. Wednesday some dealers were asking over 900 austral to sell dollars.

Dealers attributed growing demand for hard currency, a traditional shelter from high inflation for Argentine investors, to fears over the future of the four-month-old Peronist government's economic stabilisation programme in the face of mounting labour unrest.

Problems with trades unions, the traditional Peronist power

base, worsened when bus drivers staged a nationwide strike, stranding millions of workers and causing huge traffic jams by blocking main access roads.

The government has accused leftwing groups of stirring up labour unrest and pledged not to alter its economic policies.

Menem took office in July he ordered massive utility price rises, tax increases and negotiated a price and wage freeze with businesses and unions in a bid to combat record inflation of 200 per cent a month.

But much of the union movement argued salaries never recovered ground lost in the hyperinflationary crisis towards the end of former President Raul Alfonsin's administration.

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Menem warned railway workers he would close down any lines brought to a standstill by a strike originally scheduled for Friday but now planned for next week.

Merchant seamen, gas, petrochemical and some airline employees also went on strike last week. The powerful metalworkers union has called for industrial action this week unless there is a breakthrough in deadlocked wage talks.

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Amman Little League Soccer

Final Cup Round Scores
Friday, Nov. 10, 1989

TOTS

Jordan Express (2) vs 7-Up (1)
(Jordan Express won penalty shot tie-breaker).

JUNIORS

Pepsi (1) vs Apple (0)

MIDS

Danish Dairy (5) vs Westinghouse (0)

SENIORS

Nash-Ebb (4) vs Cairo Amman Bank (0)

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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SPOT THE WAY TO WIN

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ 9 7
♥ Q J 10 5
♦ 3 5 3 2
♦ 9 5 4

WEST
♦ 8 7 4
♥ K 9 8 4
♦ J 9 6
♦ 10 6

EAST
♦ Q 10 5
♥ A 7 6 2
♦ 10 7
♦ Q J 8 7

SOUTH
♦ A K 6 3
♥ 3
♦ K Q 8 4
♦ A K 3 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 0 Pass 1 5 Pass
1 ♦ Pass 2 3 Pass
3 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♦
When you have all the tricks in a suit, it usually makes no difference how you play your spades. But when entries are scarce, you must handle card combinations with care.

Despite his powerful hand, South did no more than rebid one spade because he had only five sure winners and the hand might have been a misfit. However, when South received a diamond preference, which revealed a possible source of tricks, he bounced into the no trump game. (Three clubs is an attractive alterna-

tive, and would have led to the same contract.)

Declarer won the first club and considered alternatives. If diamonds were 3-2, there were eight fast tricks. Were it not for the opening lead, which had to be from shortness since the nine was in dummy, the club suit might have offered some hope of setting up a ninth. Under the circumstances, however, that trick would have to come from hearts.

But that presented a problem. Two entries would be needed to set up and cash a heart trick, and there was only one in plain view. However, declarer had no difficulty in unearthing a second.

At trick two, South immediately led the singleton heart. West grabbed the king to continue with a club, won by declarer. When both defenders followed to the king and queen of diamonds, the contract became a sure bet.

Declarer carefully led the eight of diamonds to the ace, then continued with the queen of hearts. East took the ace and cashed two club tricks, but that was all for the defense. Declarer won the spade return in hand, overtook the four of diamonds with dummy's five, and the rest of the tricks were there for the taking.

CHICAGO (AP) — Top seeded Martina Navratilova withdrew from the Virginia slams of Chicago tennis tournament on Friday after aggravating a groin injury. Navratilova, ranked second in the world, was to meet unseeded Larisa Savchenko of the Soviet Union in an early evening quarterfinal match.

Navratilova, who was born in Czechoslovakia and now lives in the United States, said the injury occurred in a match earlier in the tournament and was aggravated on Wednesday during her match against Donna Faber.

Salmon, caviar, tango and Maradona

Soccer superstar Diego Maradona, 29, dazzled wedding of the decade" after his marriage to more than 1,200 guests on Tuesday in Buenos Aires Claudia Villafane, 28.

Navratilova pulls out of Chicago tournament

Navratilova said she was not able to push off on either of her legs during a morning workout at a private tennis club.

Navratilova, who was born in Czechoslovakia and now lives in the United States, said the injury occurred in a match earlier in the tournament and was aggravated on Wednesday during her match against Donna Faber.

Serena gives Italy 1-0 victory against Algeria

VICENZA, Italy (R) — Aldo Serena returned from injury to save the day for Italy Saturday, scoring in the 75th minute to give his team a 1-0 victory in a soccer friendly against Algeria.

Serena, top scorer for Inter Milan last season, found the net with his left foot just five minutes after coming on in a bid to help Italy find the finishing touch after 10 near misses.

Italy had dominated the match, the third in a series of friendlies in their World Cup warm-up season, but failed repeatedly to get

past Algeria's determined keeper Hadi Larbi.

World Cup hopefuls Algeria, depicted by the absence of four French-based stalwarts, looked disorganized and uncertain in attack and only twice put keeper Walter Zenga to the test.

Italy's manager Azeglio Vicini had planned to rest key players such as Serena and AC Milan winger Roberto Donadoni on Saturday ahead of the side's tougher assignment against England next Wednesday.

But when star striker Gianluca

The 33-year-old defending champion was seeking her fourth straight Chicago crown and ninth since 1978.

Navratilova went right to bed, planning to remain there throughout the weekend.

She said she plans to go to New York next week, where she is second in Virginia slams national championships.

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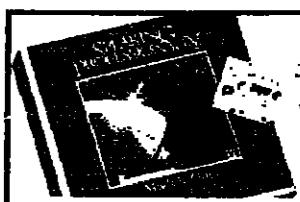
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lost my passport No.
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TO THE BRAZILIAN COMMUNITY IN JORDAN

All Brazilian citizens who had been registered to vote in the forthcoming presidential elections are requested to report to the Brazilian Embassy on Wednesday, November 15th, from 08:00 a.m. to 05:00 p.m. to cast their votes.

The Brazilian Embassy also informs the general public that it will be closed on November 15 and 16, due to the elections and to the poll.

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Dozens injured in Moldavian clashes

Kremlin orders 4 republics to drop controversial laws

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Kremlin has declared that local laws passed by four restive Soviet republics are unconstitutional, state-run news media reported Saturday.

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet legislature declared that laws in Azerbaijan and the Baltic republics of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia "cannot have force on the territory of the republics, because they contradict the provisions of the national constitution," the Soviet News Agency TASS reported.

The presidium did not specify which laws were unconstitutional. But the four republics' parliaments have all passed laws declaring their "sovereignty," meaning they had the right to declare that laws passed in Moscow were invalid locally.

The Estonian parliament already had run afoul of the Kremlin twice with controversial laws, but the legislative conflicts have never led to show downs.

Estonian lawmakers held fast to their sovereignty law late last year despite Kremlin objections, and the issue was never forced. This summer, the Estonian parliament backed down on a voting law that set residency requirements and led to strikes among Russian workers in the republic who complained many of them would lose the right to vote.

All four of the republics have popular movements that are

pushing for greater independence from Moscow.

TASS said the presidium cited Article 74 of the Soviet constitution, which states that when there is a conflict between national law and a republic's law, the national law prevails.

Presidium members "proposed" that the republics' parliaments take steps to bring their laws into compliance with the national constitution, TASS said.

In other action, the presidium approved a draft measure declaring the full exoneration of Soviet ethnic groups that were forcibly resettled under dictator Josef Stalin, Moscow Radio reported Saturday.

Stalin, accusing several ethnic groups of sympathizing or siding with the enemy during World War II, forcibly removed them

from their homelands and settled them in less strategically important areas.

The Crimean Tatars and other groups have been agitating in recent years to be allowed to return to their historical homelands. So far, their requests for wholesale resettlement have been denied, at least in part because the lands have long since been taken over by other residents.

The radio report on the groups' political rehabilitation did not indicate whether it might lead to resettlement.

The presidium also decided to continue restoring citizenship to Soviets who were stripped of it over the last two decades because of emigration or statements they made while abroad, TASS said.

5 die in fresh Indian religious violence

NEW DELHI (AP) — A new outbreak of sectarian violence near the remote eastern town of Bhagalpur has left at least five people dead, news reports said Saturday.

Press Trust of India news agency reported that mobs attacked four villages near the town Friday, burning more than 100 huts and killing five people.

At least 200 people died in fighting between Hindus and Muslims in the region last month.

Indian news media rarely identify the perpetrators or victims of religious violence, but journalists who visited the area said most of those killed have been Muslims.

Bhagalpur, in the state of Bihar, is about 1,025 kilometres southeast of New Delhi. Fighting broke out in the region on Oct. 24 after militant Hindus organised processions celebrating the building of a temple at a site in

neighbouring Uttar Pradesh state. The site is claimed by followers of both faiths.

The foundation stone for the temple was laid Thursday, amid fears that it would lead to widespread violence. The ceremony passed peacefully, however.

The temple site at the town of Ayodhya, 525 kilometres south of New Delhi, is claimed by Hindus to be the birthplace of Lord Ram, an incarnation of one of the supreme trinity of Hindu gods.

Muslims say a shrine on the site is the Babri Masjid, a mosque to the Moghul Emperor Babar.

Muslims form 11 per cent of India's 880 million people, and Hindus make up 82 per cent of the population.

Bhutto said Islamic Pakistan's policy was not to interfere in the internal affairs of other states. "However the developments in the Babri Masjid issue are a matter of deepest concern for Muslims both inside and outside India."

"The people of Pakistan share the anguish which these developments have caused to their Muslim brethren worldwide."

Bhutto said it was the Indian government's responsibility "to

take effective steps to put an end to communal killing and to ensure that the Muslims in India are provided full security of life and property and that the sentiments of the Islamic Ummah (nation) are respected."

In a separate development, Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government, fearing defeat in this month's parliamentary elections, has started destroying sensitive files, India's main opposition party said Friday.

"We have reliable information that governmental agencies are destroying sensitive records because Rajiv Gandhi's government is sure of being voted out of power," opposition Janata Dal spokesman Yashwant Sinha told reporters.

Sinha refused to disclose the source of his information or the contents of the documents marked for destruction.

Police battle protesters in S. Korean campus

SEOUL (R) — South Korean police fought pitched battles with anti-government demonstrators on the campus of Korea University in Seoul Saturday.

Hundreds of riot police in combat fatigues and helmets stormed the campus and fired tear gas to disperse more than 1,000 students, teachers and dissidents before a rally called to protest against suppression of human rights, and trade unions.

Witnesses said protesters pelted police with petrol bombs and stones as they fled to campus buildings.

State radio said more than 20 protesters and police were injured during the battle which lasted for several hours. There were no immediate reports of arrests.

A visiting United States Human Rights delegation led by the daughter of the late Senator

Robert Kennedy earlier called for the repeal of a national security law which it said authorities use against freedom of expression and assembly.

The law provides for heavy penalties, in some cases death, for activities favouring Communism in North Korea.

Kerry Kennedy of the Robert F. Kennedy Centre for Human Rights said her group was concerned the law was used to im-

prison dissenters who then faced excessive force and torture despite promises by President Roh Tae-Woo to end brutality.

"Use of excessive force against suspects during interrogation is another concern. In all cases that the delegation examined, there were allegations of brutal beating, sleep deprivation and humiliation during interrogation," Kennedy said in a statement.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Bhutto sacks troubled minister

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto Saturday sacked a cabinet minister implicated in a murder case and replaced him with a former opponent of her Pakistan People's Party government. Her office made no comment on the change, but an aide said it was part of a cabinet reshuffle expected since Ms. Bhutto survived a parliamentary no-confidence motion on Nov. 1. "This is not the reshuffle as such, but part of it," said the aide. He asked not to be identified by name. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan administered the oath of office on Saturday to Ghulam Mohammad Maneka as minister of manpower and overseas Pakistanis, according to an official announcement. Maneka's deputy, Makhdoom Alam Anwar, also was sworn in along with Ghulam Akbar Lasi as deputy minister of labour. Maneka replaces Mukhtar Awan, who is sought in Punjab province on charges of conspiracy in connection with the murder of two right-wing students. Mukhtar's hometown of Multan last July, Awan has remained in Ms. Bhutto's home province of Sindh since the Punjabi warrant was issued Aug. 25.

Militants destroy Sri Lankan distillery

COLOMBO (AP) — Suspected Sinhalese militants Saturday set fire to an orchid nursery and the nation's largest distillery, military officials said. In other violence linked to the radical Sinhalese uprising, at least 12 people were killed across the island nation Friday and Saturday, said the officials, who cannot be identified under briefing rules. The officials said 30 suspected militants set fire to vats at Rockland Distilleries Ltd. in Beruwala, 52 kilometres south of Colombo. The extent of damage was not immediately known, they said.

17 killed by Peruvian rebels

LIMA (AP) — Maoist guerrillas trying to disrupt local elections this weekend blew up power lines and attacked troops and civilians, and 17 people were killed, police said. Among those killed in the attacks late Thursday and Friday were seven local officeholders and candidates. That raised to more than 135 the number of officials and candidates assassinated by the Shining Path rebels this year. The government says more than 15,000 people have been killed in political violence since the Shining Path launched their insurgency in 1980, and the increasing tempo of attacks have been denounced by all political parties. Thousands marched in Lima on Nov. 3 for peace. Police said rebels fatally shot an election board official, a town council officer and three council candidates Friday in Palca, 250 kilometres southeast of Lima. They killed a policeman and his wife Friday morning in Tarma, 150 kilometres east of Lima, police said.

Ugandan university closed

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) — Officials closed Uganda's main Makerere University after a 12-day strike because of the "spoilt students' arrogant behaviour," the official radio reported Saturday. "The students refused to go to classes, in spite of the fact that various meetings with government officials had taken place," the state-owned Radio Uganda said, quoting a government statement. Vice Chancellor George Kirya ordered an indefinite closure shortly after noon Friday, following a morning meeting with representatives of the 7,000 students at Makerere University campus. The closure came a day after the students rejected

President Yoweri Museveni's verbal assurance Thursday that some government allowances withdrawn in July would be reinstated. Museveni, who also serves as the university's chancellor, told the students to go back to classes while negotiations over books and travel allowances continued.

Hammer admitted to hospital

LOS ANGELES (R) — Armand Hammer, the 91-year-old American oil tycoon who has maintained ties with the Soviet Union since the days of Lenin, has been admitted to a Los Angeles hospital, but the hospital would not give details about his condition or say when he was admitted. "Armand Hammer is here, but we have no statement on his condition yet," UCLA Medical Centre spokeswoman Vicki Beck said Friday. Hammer, who is chairman of Occidental Petroleum, missed a speech before Los Angeles Security Analysts Thursday, and the company said it was because of recurrent pain from a rib injury. The company, where Hammer has been chairman and chief executive officer since 1957, had no immediate comment.

WHO reports 134 deaths from plague

GENEVA (AP) — The plague has resurfaced among humans in Africa, pushing the number of worldwide cases to 1,363 last year and causing 134 deaths, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has said. A report from the U.N. agency said the Central African nations of Zaire and Tanzania accounted for three-fourths of all cases of the contagious disease, usually carried by fleas from infected rats. Other outbreaks occurred in Africa's Indian Ocean island of Madagascar, and in the United States, Bolivia, Peru, Brazil, Vietnam and China, according to the WHO weekly epidemiological record.

Pope visits exhibit of Russian icons

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II has inaugurated the first exhibit of Russian religious art at the Vatican, saying the icons symbolised the roots of Christianity in the Soviet Union and the rest of Europe. The Pope was given a tour of the exhibit of 107 medieval works by J.S. Meldey, minister of culture for the Russian Republic. Meldey noted that the exhibit comes "on the eve of an historic meeting," referring to the Pope's scheduled audience with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev during his Nov. 29-Dec. 1 visit to Italy. Pope John Paul nodded and smiled at the remark. In his speech, the Pope said the Russian exhibit and the art of icons in general underline the church's desire for unity of the Eastern and Western churches.

Radiation not linked to leukemia

LONDON (AP) — Increases in leukemia among young people living near nuclear plants are not caused by exposure to radiation, said a study released Friday. Researchers found that death rates from leukemia and Hodgkin's disease among young people were about as high in areas that were only considered for nuclear plants as in areas that actually contained nuclear plants. Hodgkin's disease is a cancer of the lymph glands. Researchers said it has never been linked to radiation exposure. The cause of heightened cancer rates found in the study remains a mystery. But the researchers said their findings indicate an increased risk of leukemia is not associated with exposure to radiation, with the possible exception of the Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant on England's north west coast.

Aquino ends Washington visit

WASHINGTON (AP) — Philippine President Corazon Aquino has completed a visit to Washington that produced pledges of economic support, but no outward sign that she will support continued U.S. use of military bases in her country.

Mrs. Aquino, accompanied by members of her cabinet and aides, left for Dallas, where she planned to resume what she has described as the main purpose of her mission to the United States — encouraging trade and investment needed for the Philippines' economic recovery.

The president also decided to continue restoring citizenship to Soviets who were stripped of it over the last two decades because of emigration or statements they made while abroad, TASS said.

Philippines Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus, who participated in the session with Cheney at a downtown hotel, said it was decided that exploratory talks on the military base issue will begin in Manila in mid-December.

He said whether the December talks lead to substantive negotiations on a new agreement on U.S. use of Philippine bases after the existing pact expires in 1991 depends on the results of the exploratory talks.

Manglapus, who will lead the Manila talks, echoed earlier Philippine statements here that Mrs. Aquino and her government want to start with exploratory meetings on the question of whether there is a genuine basis for negotiating continued U.S. use of Subic Bay Naval Station, Clark Field Air Base and four smaller installations in the islands.

President George Bush and administration officials, however, have voiced optimism that the process will lead to a new agreement, driven by the logic that the arrangement benefits both countries and the security of the entire East Asian region, as some put it.

Earlier Friday, Mrs. Aquino had breakfast with Vice President Dan Quayle and U.S.-backed Nicaraguan opposition candidate Daniel Ortega. The two women — both the wives of slain national leaders — discussed their common experiences in entering politics, said Carnes Lord, an aide to Quayle.

The two women — both the wives of slain national leaders — discussed their common experiences in entering politics, said Carnes Lord, an aide to Quayle.

On Thursday and Friday at U.N. headquarters in New York, representatives of both sides held their first face-to-face peace talks

98% turnout expected in Namibian elections

WINDHOEK, Namibia (AP) — The possibly record-setting flood of voters ebbed to a trickle Saturday in elections that will bring independence to this South African-controlled territory.

More than 91 per cent of the 101,483 registered voters had cast their ballots by Friday night, and with one more day to go in the five-day polling, Namibian territorial officials said Saturday they expected a total voter turnout of 98 per cent.

Officials said the polls would stay open until everyone in line had voted. Earlier, lines had stretched as much as a mile.

Voters were choosing a 72-member assembly that will write a constitution and declare the end of 74 years of South African rule.

The United Nations monitoring team believes an all-time percentage poll record may be achieved for fully democratic elections, spokesman Fred Eckhard said late Friday.

The final voter turnout was to be announced Sunday morning.

Ballot counting begins Monday and results are expected Wednesday.

Some of the 350 polling stations in the vast, semi-desert

territory were idle Saturday morning, although people who had not been able to take off work to vote during the week were expected to arrive before the scheduled 7 p.m. (1500 GMT) poll closing time.

Officials said the polls would stay open until everyone in line had voted. Earlier, lines had stretched as much as a mile.

Voters were choosing a 72-member assembly that will write a constitution and declare the end of 74 years of South African rule.

The 10 parties running will receive seats in the assembly proportionally according to the percentage of the votes they garner.

The South-West African People's Organisation, which fought a 23-year guerrilla war against South African rule, is expected to get the most votes, but it is unclear whether it will receive the two-thirds majority needed to write a constitution without consulting the other parties.

Managua, contras make progress towards truce

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — in more than a year. After rejecting each other's opening proposals Thursday, officials said, the two sides began making progress toward restoring a truce and allowing the guerrillas to return home under a Central American peace accord, say officials.

But in Managua, the government and the rebels, known as contras, accused each other Friday of launching recent attacks in the 8-year-old civil war that has killed an estimated 12,000 people.

Bradford said progress was being made on the rising Sandinista's demand for an agreement by the contras to disband, and on rebel demands for a truce and an amnesty allowing them to return to Nicaragua without being imprisoned or fired upon.

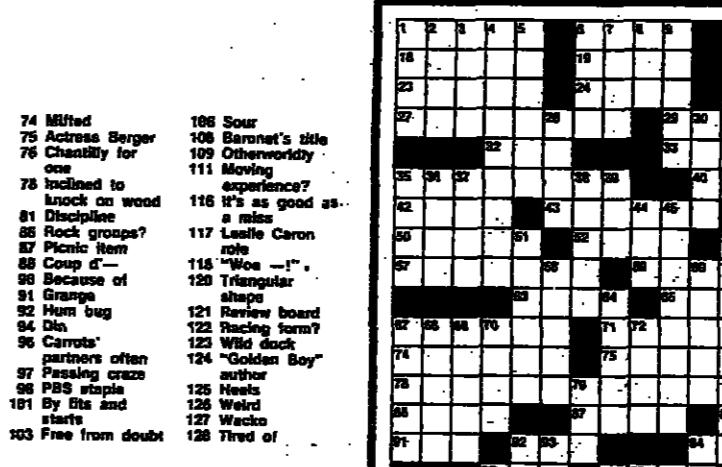
"I think we were able to find some coincidence" of views, said the chief Nicaraguan negotiator, Deputy Foreign Minister Hugo Tinoco.

"Next week in Washington we are going to continue these discussions, and we hope we will be able to get a sound agreement that will incorporate the demobilisation and the ceasefire," he told reporters.

The U.N.-OAS-mediated talks recessed as the parties discussed the toughest issue — whether the contras would commit to a timetable for disbanding as part of a package deal including a ceasefire and amnesty.

THE Sunday Crossword

Edited by Herb Emerson



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Just prior facts are found in an encyclopedia, while sage judgments may be elsewhere.

2. Big so-called hard-boiled teacher didn't scold giggling children.

3. Mountains are often used as a forceful symbol in both myth and fiction.

4. Ancient king always conferred knighthood on his loyal followers.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. TZZA DJHBLP TCAAES TSCLWBKW LDKEPL

—By Earl Ireland

2. XRTLL MOEELNL MNRXFC PTL CFRETFS